



**DARK
HORSE
COMICS**
ORCHID

5

ORCHID



TOM MORELLO

SCOTT HEPBURN

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ORCHID

LETTERS BY
NATE PIEKOS OF **BLAMBOT®**

COVER BY
MASSIMO CARNEVALE

Following the deaths of her mother and brother, Orchid has nothing left to lose. Hell bent on revenge, she forms an unlikely trio with a Shadow Rebel, Simon, and a mysterious warrior, Opal.

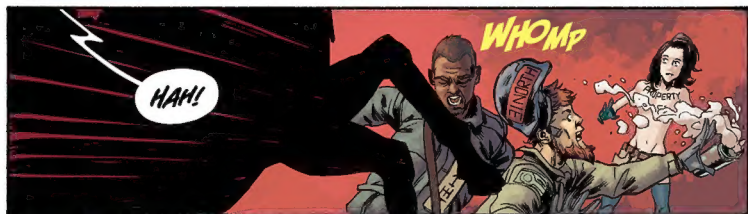
The fight for justice starts when someone starts it. And this fight starts . . . NOW.

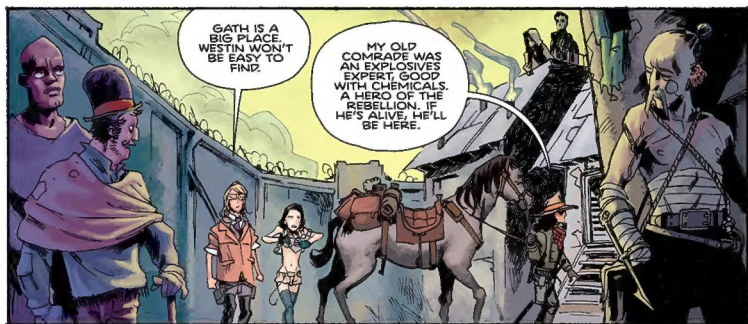
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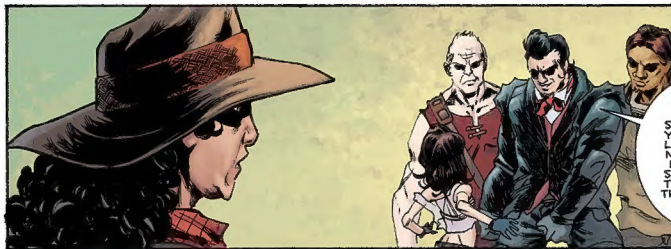
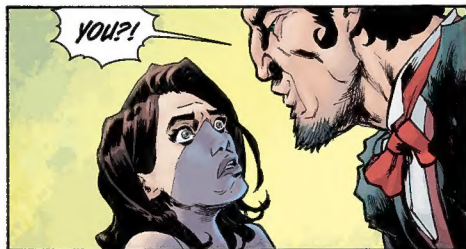
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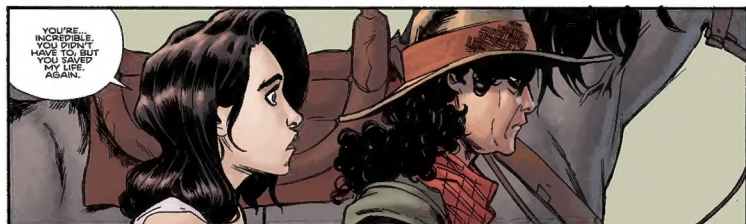
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HERE I AM KNOWN
SIMPLY AS *THE APOTHECARY*.
IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME
SINCE ANYONE HAS CALLED
ME "WESTIN."

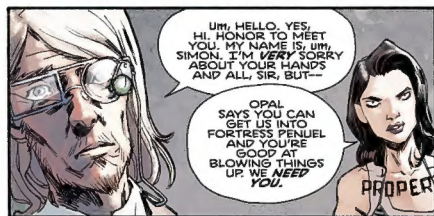
LOOK AT
THIS PLACE! THIS
GUY MUST RUN THE
DRUG TRADE FOR
ALL OF GATH!

I NEED
YOUR HELP, OLD
FRIEND, AND WE
DON'T HAVE MUCH
TIME. WE ARE...
CONTINUING
GENERAL CHINA'S
WORK.



HA! OH,
REALLY?! I LOST
MY HANDS TAKING
ORDERS FROM
THAT DERANGED
MESSIAH!

HE AND HIS
"CAUSE" ARE LONG
GONE AND, AS YOU
CAN SEE, MY
HANDS HAVEN'T
COME BACK!



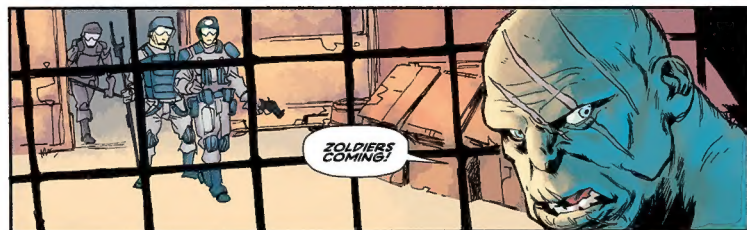
UM, HELLO. YES,
HE, HONOR TO MEET
YOU. MY NAME IS, UM,
SIMON. I'M *VERY* SORRY
ABOUT YOUR HANDS
AND ALL, SIR, BUT—

OPAL
SAYS YOU CAN
GET US INTO
FORTRESS PENUEL
AND YOU'RE
GOOD AT
BLOWING THINGS
UP. WE NEED
YOU.

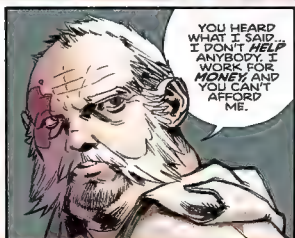
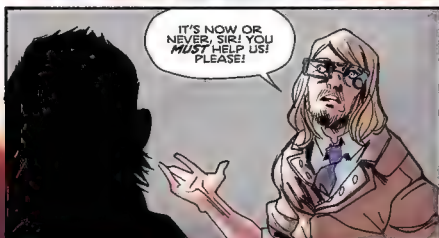
PROPER



LOOK, WE ALL *NEED*
SOMETHING, LITTLE
GIRL. JUST AS MY
CLIENTS. I DON'T
WORK FOR "CAUSES"
ANYMORE. I WORK
FOR *ME*. I WORK
FOR *MONEY*.



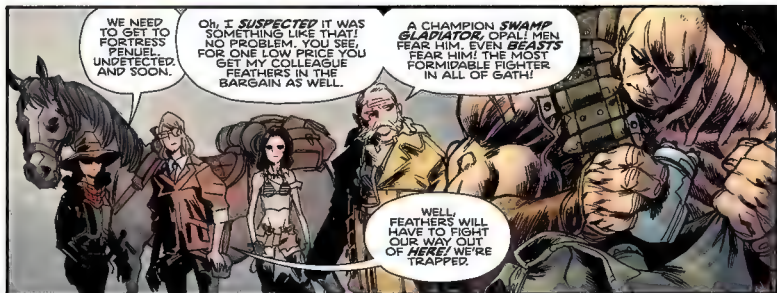
SOLDIERS
COMING!





ZOLDIERS
NO BODDER.

GOOD.
THERE'S BEEN
A CHANGE
OF PLANS.
FEATHERS!
WE'RE LEAVING.
BRING
EVERYTHING.



WE NEED
TO GET TO
FORTRESS
PENUEL.
UNDETECTED
AND SOON.

Oh, I *SUSPECTED* IT WAS
SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
NO PROBLEM, YOU SEE,
FOR ONE LOW PRICE YOU
GET MY COLLEAGUE
FEATHERS IN THE
BARGAIN AS WELL.

A CHAMPION *SWAMP
GLADIATOR*, OPAL! MEN
FEAR HIM, EVEN *BEASTS*
FEAR HIM! THE MOST
FORMIDABLE FIGHTER
IN ALL OF GATH!

WELL,
FEATHERS WILL
HAVE TO FIGHT
OUR WAY OUT
OF *HERE!* WE'RE
TRAPPED.



POP



NOT TO
WORRY...




PLANN




FEATHERS
AND I WILL
GET YOU TO
FORTRESS
PENUEL.

SHOOSE

**THE DUNGEONS OF
FORTRESS PENUEL**




I COUNTED
EXACTLY FIFTY
DEAD. BUT DEAD
OR ALIVE, BRIDGE
PEOPLE ALL LOOK
THE SAME. DON'T
YOU THINK?




AN INNATELY INFERIOR
RACE, THE POOR. THE
SHAPE OF THE HEAD.
THE SET OF THE EYES.
BORN TO SERVE
THEIR BETTERS.

STILL, WAS
IT HARD FOR YOU
TO WATCH THEM DIE,
ANZIO? INNOCENT
PERISHING BECAUSE
YOU WITHHELD
INFORMATION?



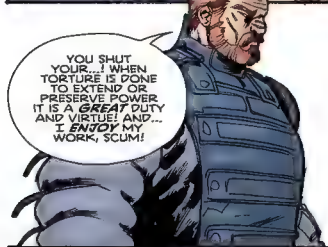
I TOLD YOU, THERE
IS NO SHADOW REBEL
ARMY! NO TROOPS,
NO SCOUTS, NO
SYMPATHIZERS, NO
ENCLAVE. IT'S...
JUST...ME.



Pah! YOU
FOOL! YOU
ARE GOING
TO DIE BY
FIRING SQUAD
IN A MATTER
OF DAYS!
HOW MANY
BRIDGE PEOPLE
WILL YOU
NEEDLESSLY
SACRIFICE IN
THE MEANTIME?
WHY...WON'T
YOU...TALK?



YOU SEEM
NERVOUS, GLETKIN.
WHY? WHAT WILL
YOUR MASTER DO
TO YOU IF I **DON'T**
TALK? Hmmm...?
YOU'VE ALREADY
BEEN DEMOTED TO
TORTURER!



YOU SHUT
YOUR...! WHEN
TORTURE IS DONE
TO EXTEND OR
PRESERVE POWER
IT IS A **GREAT** DUTY
AND VIRTUE! AND...
I **ENJOY** MY
WORK, SCUM!



SOOO, IF
YOU'RE LUCKY,
PERHAPS JUST
ANOTHER
DEMOTION?



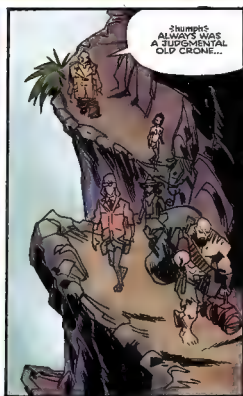
AND IF YOU'RE **NOT**
LUCKY, PERHAPS
SOMETHING...WORSE?

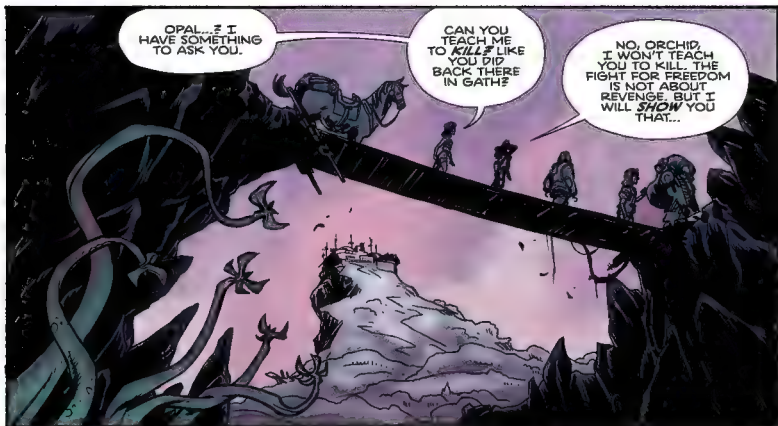


WHY, YOU...!
YOU WILL BE
BLOWN TO
BITS ALL
OVER STADIA
ON THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEATH
OF YOUR
BELOVED SAINT,
GENERAL
CHINA! THAT'S
WHAT YOU...
YOU...



**GUARDS! BRING FIFTY
MORE BRIDGE RATS!
NOW! KILL THEM
ONE...AT...A...TIME
IN FRONT OF THE
PRISONER!**





OPAL... I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.

CAN YOU TEACH ME TO **KILL** LIKE YOU DID BACK THERE IN GATHE?

NO, ORCHID, I WON'T TEACH YOU TO KILL. THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IS NOT ABOUT REVENGE, BUT I WILL **SHOW** YOU THAT...

"...NO AMOUNT OF ARMS CAN STOP A PEOPLE HUNGRY FOR BREAD AND THIRSTY FOR JUSTICE.

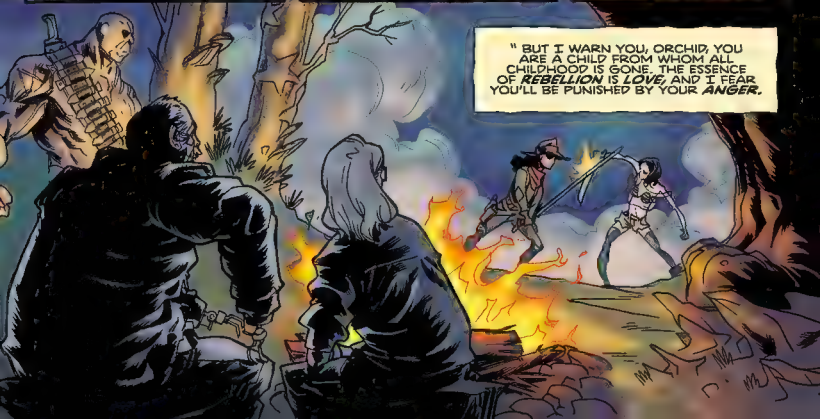


"THAT TO STIR THE OPPRESSED TO THE POINT OF GETTING OFF THEIR KNEES AND **TAKING** WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS IS A **SACRED ACT**.



"THAT IN ORDER TO WIN A **WAR**, YOU MUST FIRST CONQUER **YOURSELF**.

" BUT I WARN YOU, ORCHID, YOU ARE A CHILD FROM WHOM ALL CHILDHOOD IS GONE. THE ESSENCE OF **REBELLION IS LOVE**, AND I FEAR YOU'LL BE PUNISHED BY YOUR **ANGER**.





"LOOK AROUND YOU.
TIME ERODES ALL
ACHIEVEMENTS. DEATH
CUTS SHORT ALL PLANS.

"WE ARE
STEWARDS OF
NOTHING IN
THE LONG RUN.
NATURE EXISTS
NEITHER FOR
NOR BECAUSE
OF US, AND
POSSESSES
A STAYING
POWER..."



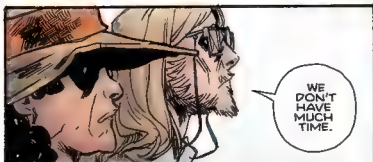
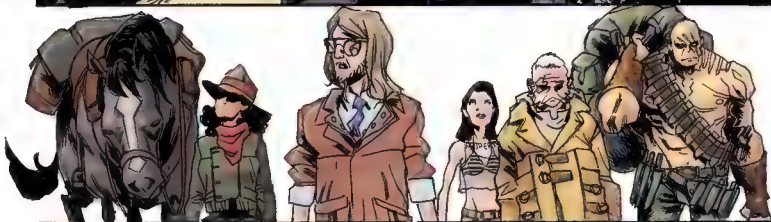
AKK!

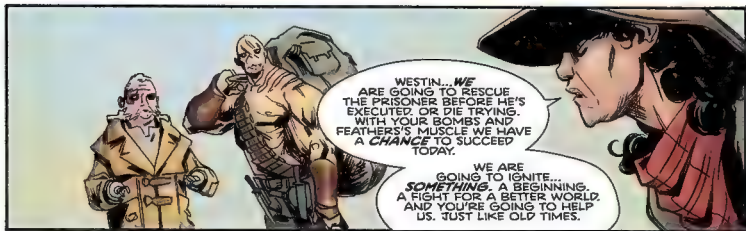
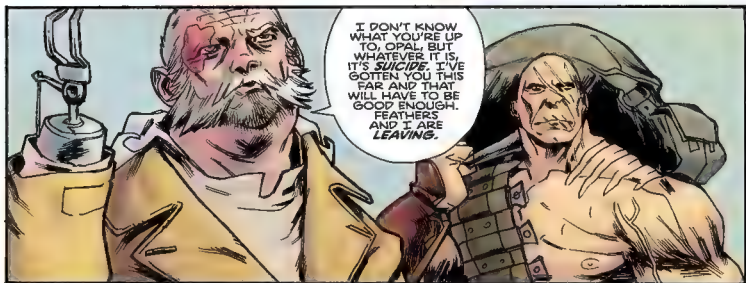
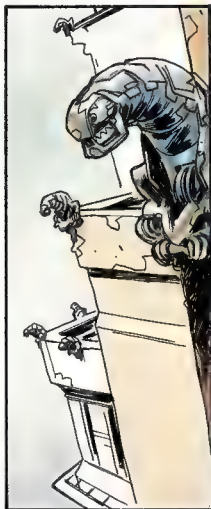
"...THAT MANKIND'S WORST
FOLLY CANNOT THREATEN.

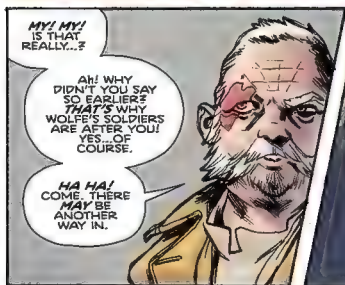
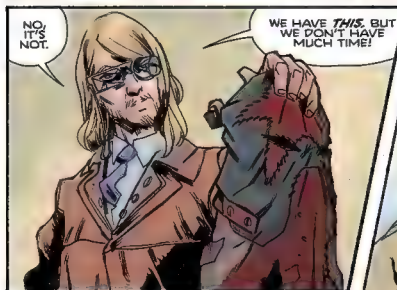
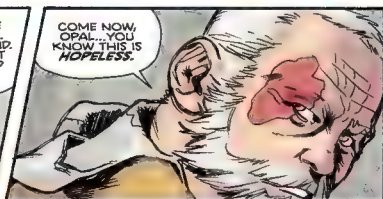
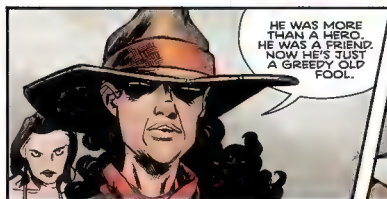
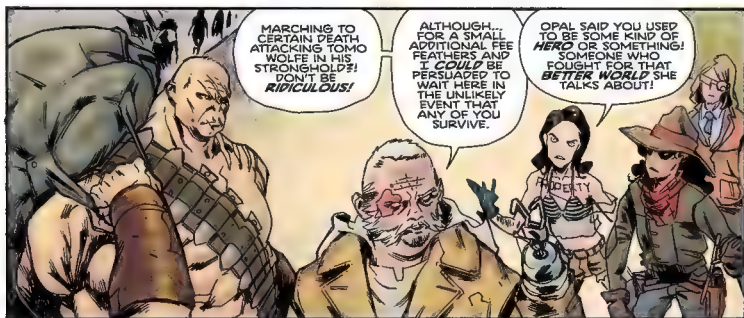
"ALL WE HAVE IS **NOW**, AND **RIGHT NOW** A NEW,
BETTER WORLD *IS* POSSIBLE. A WORLD FREE OF
SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION. A WORLD WITHOUT
TYRANTS OR TORTURE OR POVERTY. A WORLD
OF EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND FREEDOM.

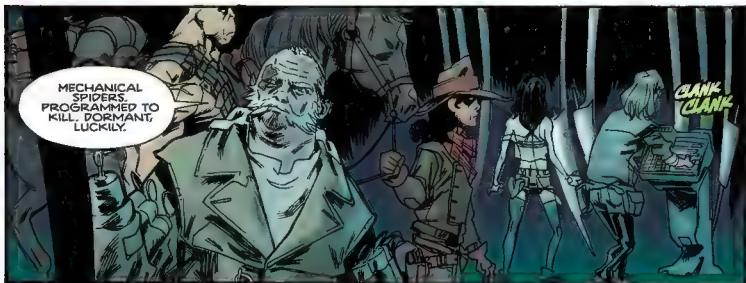
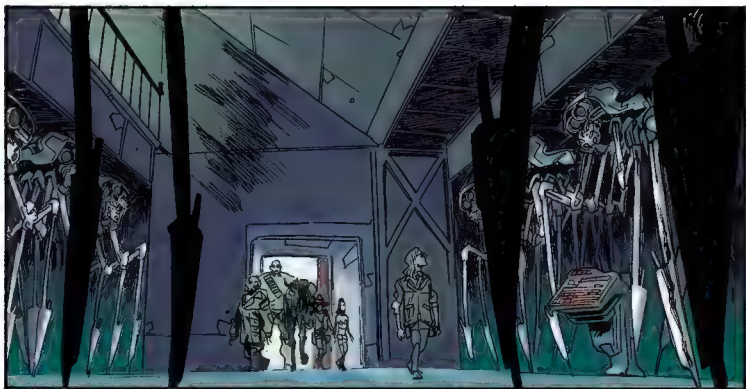


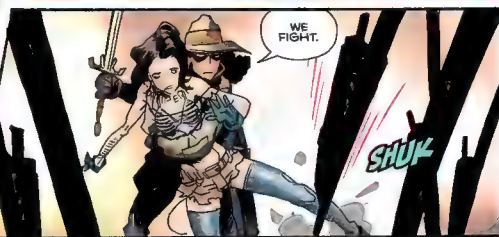
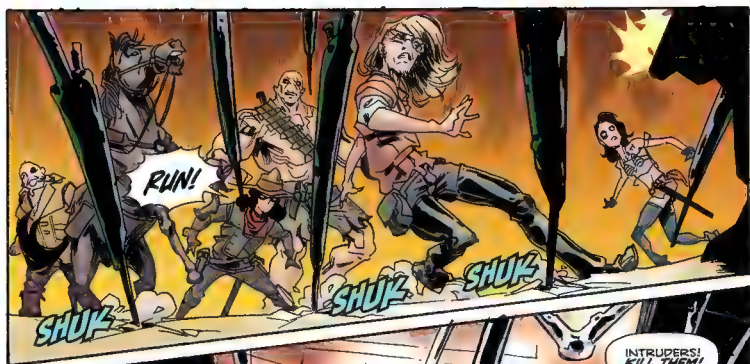
"THERE ARE ONLY TWO MISTAKES
YOU CAN MAKE ON THE ROAD TO
THAT BETTER WORLD, ORCHID. NOT
GOING ALL THE WAY..."

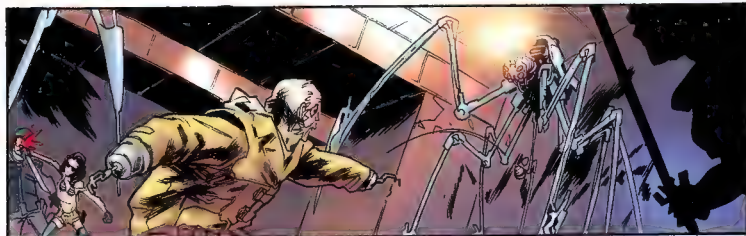
















OH DEAR.

**TO BE
CONTINUED...**

THE SHADOW REBEL READER

E-MAIL US AT: ORCHID@DARKHORSE.COM
WRITE TO US AT: THE SHADOW REBEL READER
C/O DARK HORSE COMICS, 10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

To learn more about the world of *Orchid* and be entered to win exclusive prizes, text **ORCHID** to **738674**. You don't have to buy a thing; we're just eager to explore innovative ways of bringing readers closer to the stories by providing unique content, news, and prizes.

As you've now witnessed, the stakes are getting increasingly higher as Orchid and her allies walk straight into the heart of Fortress Penuel in order to save Anzio—and hoping to lead a revolution against the tyrannical Tomo Wolfe. Better equipped to fight with more than just words, Orchid teeters on the edge of becoming a fierce warrior under the tutelage of Opal... if they can survive what Wolfe is about to sic on them.

Your letters!

Hi there,

I love the interactions between Simon and Orchid, as well as the backdrop of China and his past love. It's nice to see this romance embedded in a tale of repression, technological disaster, and natural evolution in a world where only the strong will survive. It adds an endearing feel amid Hepburn's immaculate art. Much like Tom's music, it's an exhilarating and mind-provoking read on society, downfall, reprisal, rebellion, and civilization's advancement, whether it be an ascension or depression. Overall, this is one kick-ass comic book.

Rinaldo
Trinidad and Tobago

I hope you're able to check out the free soundtrack music that Tom has created specifically for the comic. More details are below.

Greetings. I just finished reading the first issue of *Orchid* and I have to say I was reasonably impressed. I picked it up on a whim. The cover by Massimo jumped out at me and I recalled reading a favorable blurb about the book in a magazine.

The social and political commentary is very well done, not too over the top but just enough to get the point across. The scenes were striking and at times violent but moving. The setting is a bit bland as far as postapocalyptic sci-fi goes (drowned world and all that). I like that there was not a whole lot of backstory aside from the intro.

I look forward to seeing this comic grow and develop over its run and I'll be reading right along. I see some promise in it.

Thanks,
Adam

Hi there,

I'm a Belgian comic-book fan. Until recently, I didn't go much farther than your average Marvel or DC comic book because we don't see much else in the comic-book stores over here. But getting sick of all the crossovers and reboots and relaunches and whatnot, I set out to search for good, self-contained comic books.

It didn't take me long to find the solicitation for *Orchid*. After reading #1, I was sold. Tom's story is original and he tells it with much fluency. That, combined with the strong art of Scott and coloring of Dan, has really drawn me into the world of *Orchid*. It got added to my pull list very quickly!

You guys did scare the c**p out of me though when I saw the solicitations for February and noticed that *Orchid* was missing! I was like, "No, you guys promised us twelve issues; don't you dare bail out now!" Luckily, when the March solicitations were announced, #5 was again listed. What a relief!

Keep up the good work, guys! I'm loving it!

Cheers,
Gunter

Thrilled to hear that readers are enjoying this world and have found a unique alternative to regular superhero fare. I'm sorry if we worried anyone by taking a month off in stores. We're definitely committed to the twelve issues, and we've built in a couple of skip months to help keep the creative schedule on track and comics coming out when we say they're coming out.

Sierra Hahn
Editor



Let the battle begin!
Orchid #6 on sale April 11, 2012

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